AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete, marked-up listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parenthesis, underlined text indicating insertions, and strike through and/or double-bracketed text indicating deletions.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Method for the production of a can body with a closed can shell and at least one closure member arranged on the can shell, comprising:

forming a metal strip to a tube closed in peripheral direction;

laser welding a longitudinal seam in between lateral edges of the tube shaped metal strip substantially continuously in longitudinal direction of the tube;

severing tube sections of the obtained tube, ~~which~~ wherein the sections have the length of a desired can height and include face sides formed by front sides at edges on ends of the sections;

forming the sections to can shells with at least one cross-sectional restriction at least at one face side of the can shells; and

attaching a closure member in the form of a can bottom to said at least one restriction of each can shell by laser welding a circumferential seam, wherein an outer marginal region of the can bottom is adapted to the shape of said restriction and a marginal face side of the bottom is formed by a front side of a marginal edge of the bottom, and for attaching the bottom to the can shell, the marginal face side of the bottom and the face side of the can shell at the bottom are on opposite sides of the can body, wherein one of the marginal face side of the bottom and the face side of the can shell at the bottom is inside of the can and the other one of the marginal face side of the bottom and the face side of the can shell at the bottom is outside of the can.

2. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the longitudinal seam is welded on the tube shaped metal strip in a flat pressed shape ~~while~~ wherein lateral marginal regions to be interconnected at the lateral edges are in supporting contact to ~~supported on~~ the inner side of the can shell.

3. (Original) Method according to claim 1, wherein for forming the tube the metal strip is moved in its longitudinal direction through a forming device and is passed next to a welding device, the forming device forming the metal strip continuously in such a way that the two lateral edges contact each other, and the welding device interconnects these lateral edges by said longitudinal welding seam.

4. (Currently Amended) Method for the production of a can body with a closed can shell having a longitudinal welding seam extending over the entire height of the can shell and with at least one closure member arranged on the can shell, comprising:

cutting a metal strip into sections,

forming the sections into a closed flat pressed shape by means of a forming mold and forming tools,

putting the flat pressed sections in series, joining directly to each other,

laser welding a longitudinal seam in between lateral edges of the joining, flat pressed sections substantially continuously in longitudinal direction along the joining, flat pressed sections,

severing tube sections, which have the length of a desired can height and include face sides formed by front sides at edges on ends of the sections;

forming the tube sections to can shells with at least one cross-sectional restriction at least at one face side of the can shells; and

attaching a closure member in the form of a can bottom to said at least one restriction of each can shell by laser welding a circumferential seam, wherein an outer marginal region of the can bottom is adapted to the shape of said restriction and a marginal face side of the bottom is formed by a front side of a marginal edge of the bottom, and for attaching the bottom to the can shell, the marginal face side of the bottom and the face side of the can shell at the bottom are on opposite sides of the can body, wherein one of the marginal face side of the bottom and the face side of the can shell at the bottom is inside of the can and the other one of the marginal face side of the bottom and the face side of the can shell at the bottom is outside of the can.

5. (Original) Method according to claim 1, wherein a decorative film is applied to the outer side of the metal strip.

6. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein a first film strip is put on the flat metal strip in a longitudinal direction of the metal strip, and is fixed by way of a sealing connection to form an inner protective layer.

7. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein for severing the tube sections, a cutting procedure is carried out with a cutting edge, the cutting edge, during the cutting procedure, being moved together with the arising laser welded tube shaped metal strip and being reset after having severed a tube section.

8. (Original) Method according to claim 7, wherein on the flat metal strip incisions are formed which after forming and pressing flat are arranged in curved regions between flat regions, the cutting procedure being carried out in the flat regions between the incisions.

9. (Original) Method according to claim 1, wherein can shells are shaped by a shell forming device in such a way that a circular cylindrical cross-section is obtained.

10. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 9, wherein at at least one face side of the can shell with the circular cylindrical cross-section an annular buckle is formed radially outwards thereby creating the cross-sectional restriction towards the face side at the buckle.

11. (Original) Method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one restriction is a shoulder-shaped restriction.

12. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one cross-sectional restriction is formed at an upper face side of the can shell, and an upper closure member is tightly connected to the restriction at the upper face side of the can shell by laser welding a circumferential seam, wherein the outer marginal region of the closure member is adapted to the shape of said restriction.

13. (Original) Method according to claim 12, wherein the can body is held in two regions, in a first region by a first holder so that it may be rotated about its longitudinal axis by the first

holder, while the second region is situated at the can end to be necked where the can body is held by a co-rotating second holder, which comprises a support part displaceable relative to the can body, having an annular deflection edge, wherein forming is achieved by at least one deforming surface joining the deflection edge at a distance in axial direction and being adapted to be pressed towards the interior in radial direction, a free space being provided radial inside the deforming surface in the interior of the can so that nothing obstructs a deformation of the can shell towards the interior.

14. (Original) Method according to claim 12, wherein an annular buckle is formed at each of the two face sides of the can shell in radial outward direction, while the can shell comprises a cross-sectional restriction at the buckles towards the respective face side, and that at the restrictions the can bottom and the upper closure member are attached by laser welding.

15. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein a base covering is fixed in such a manner that the connection of the can shell to the can bottom is covered by the base covering.

16. (Original) Method according to claim 1, wherein an upper closure member together with a valve is attached to the can shell by laser welding.

17. (Original) Method according to claim 1, further comprising at least one necking step, wherein a can body to be necked, which extends along an axis, is held in two regions, the can body being firmly held by a first holder in the first region so that it may be rotated about its longitudinal axis by the first holder, while the second region is situated at the can end to be necked where the can body is held by a co-rotating second holder, which comprises a support part displaceable relative to the can body, having an annular deflection edge, and a deformation is achieved by at least one forming surface joining the deflection edge at a distance in axial direction and being adapted to be pressed towards the interior in radial direction, a free space being provided radial inside the deforming surface in the interior of the can so that nothing obstructs a deformation of the can shell towards the interior.

18. (Currently Amended) Device for the production of a can body with a closed can shell and at least one closure member arranged on the can shell, comprising:

a supply arrangement for supplying a metal strip;

a first forming device for forming the metal strip into the shape of a tube closed in peripheral direction;

a welding device for substantially continuously welding the tube;

a severing device separating closed can shells from the tube, wherein the can shells include edges on ends and face sides formed by front sides of the edges;

a second forming device for forming the sections to can shells with a cross-sectional restriction at least at one face side of the can shells; and

an attaching device for attaching a closure member in the form of a can bottom to said at least one restriction of each can shell by laser welding a circumferential seam, wherein an outer marginal region of the can bottom is adapted to the shape of said restriction and a marginal face side of the bottom is formed by a front side of a marginal edge of the bottom, and said attaching device brings together the bottom and the can shell in such a way, that the marginal face side of the bottom and the face side of the can shell at said bottom are on opposite sides of the can body, wherein one of the marginal face side of the bottom and the face side of the can shell at the bottom is inside of the can and the other one of the marginal face side of the bottom and the face side of the can shell at the bottom is outside of the can.

19. (Original) Device according to claim 18, wherein the first forming device forms the metal strip continuously around an axis extending parallel to the metal strip in such a manner that the two lateral edges contact each other, and that the welding device connects these lateral edges by a longitudinal welding seam, and that the severing device comprises a cutting edge that is optionally moved during the cutting procedure together with the arising tube and is reset after having severed a tube section.

20. (Original) Device according to claim 18, wherein the welding device is formed and arranged in such a way that it enables welding of a butt-joint or a jump joint welding seam on a flat pressed tube while the lateral marginal regions to be interconnected are supported on the inner side of the can shell.

21. (Currently Amended) Can body including a can shell, wherein the can shell comprises a metal strip closed in a peripheral direction by ~~way of~~ a longitudinal laser welding seam and the can shell includes face sides formed by front sides at edges on ends of the can shell, and a bottom fixed at one face side of the can shell, wherein

~~the can shell consists of metal strip closed in peripheral direction by the longitudinal laser welding seam;~~

the can shell has a cross-sectional restriction at least at one face side of the can shell; and

a closure member in the form of a can bottom is attached to said at least one restriction of each can shell by a circumferential laser welding seam, wherein an outer marginal region of the can bottom is adapted to the shape of said restriction, a marginal face side of the bottom is formed by a front side of a marginal edge of the bottom, and the face side of the can shell and the marginal face side of the bottom attached at said face side of the can shell are on opposite sides of the can body, one of the marginal face side of the bottom and the face side of the can shell at the bottom is inside of the can and the other one of the marginal face side of the bottom and the face side of the can shell at the bottom is outside of the can.

22. (Currently Amended) Can body comprising a closed can shell, the can shell including face sides formed by front sides at edges on ends of the can shell, and a closure member fixed at one face side of the can shell wherein

the can shell has a cross-sectional restriction at least at one face side of the can shell;

the closure member is attached to said at least one restriction of the can shell by a circumferential laser welding seam, wherein an outer marginal region of the closure member is adapted to the shape of said restriction, a marginal face side of the bottom is formed by a front side of a marginal edge of the bottom, and the face side of the can shell and the marginal face side of the bottom attached at said face of the can shell are on opposite sides of the can body, one of the marginal face side of the bottom and the face side of the can shell at the bottom is inside of the can and the other one of the marginal face side of the bottom and the face side of the can shell at the bottom is outside of the can;

and

the closure member including a valve seat with a metallic inner portion as well as a plastic portion which surrounds torically the metallic inner portion at least at the valve seat.

23. (Currently Amended) Can body comprising a closed can shell, the can shell including face sides formed by front sides at edges on ends of the can shell, and an upper closure member fixed at one face side of the can shell wherein

the upper closure member is including a valve;

the can shell has a cross-sectional restriction at least at one face side of the can shell; and

the closure member with the valve is attached to said at least one restriction of the can shell by a circumferential laser welding seam, wherein an outer marginal region of the closure member is adapted to the shape of said restriction, a marginal face side of the bottom is formed by a front side of a marginal edge of the bottom, and the face side of the can shell and the marginal face side of the bottom attached at said face of the can shell are on opposite sides of the can body, one of the marginal face side of the bottom and the face side of the can shell at the bottom is inside of the can and the other one of the marginal face side of the bottom and the face side of the can shell at the bottom is outside of the can.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Original) Can body according to claim 21, wherein the can shell has a cross-sectional restriction at both faces, further comprising a upper closure member at the upper face opposite to the bottom, wherein the upper closure member is connected to the restriction at the upper face of the can shell by a circumferential laser welding seam, and the outer marginal region of the upper closure member is adapted to the shape of said upper restriction.

26. (Original) Can body according to claim 25, wherein the face side of the can shell and the face side of the upper closure member attached at said face of the can shell are on opposite sides of the can body, one inside and one outside of the can.

27. (Original) Method according to claim 1, wherein the longitudinal welding seam is formed as a butt-joint or a jump joint.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Original) Method according to claim 6, wherein a seam covering tape is put on the film strip and made to engage the region of the welding seam after the welding step.

30. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 9, wherein forming the can shell includes increasing the circumference of the can shell and creating a cross-sectional restriction from an enlarged one to a smaller cross-section at one can end.

31. (Original) Method according to claim 12, wherein for attaching the upper closure member to the can shell, the face side of the upper closure member and the face side of the can shell at the upper closure member are on opposite sides of the can body, one inside and one outside of the can.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Original) Device according to claim 18, wherein said second forming device for forming the sections to can shells is forming cross-sectional restrictions at both faces of the can shells and said attaching device is attaching an upper closure member at the can shell by laser welding a circumferential seam, wherein the outer marginal region of the upper closure member is adapted to the shape of the restriction at the upper can shell end, and the face side of the upper closure member and the face side of the can shell at said upper closure member are on opposite sides of the can body, one inside and one outside of the can.